

Application No. 09/292,627
Amendment Dated: March 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2005

Remarks/Arguments

In an Office Action dated November 29, 2005, an objection was made to claim 45 and claims 1, 2, 4-6, 12, 14-17, 19-22 and 54 were rejected. Claims 3, 7-11, 13, 18 and 55-57 were objected to. Claim 45 is corrected and claims 3, 5, 7, 13 and 18 have been amended to independent form including any intervening dependent claims. Claim 5 has further been amended to clarify the basis of the channel selection. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 12, 14-17 and 19-22 have been cancelled in this amendment. Applicants traverse the rejections of claims 5 and 54.

§102 Rejections

Claim 5 was rejected under § 102(b) over Ogawa. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claim 5

Claim 5, as amended, requires the first virtual channel to be chosen based on the identity of the source of the Fibre Channel data frame. The Office Action references col. 7, lines 44-46 in Ogawa to meet the claim. Applicants acknowledge the use of the phrase "source routing" in the cited passage but submit that this phrase does not teach or suggest that virtual channel selection is made based on a source of the frame as required in claim 5. Referencing col. 6, lines 27 to 36, the development of the pseudo BOM cells of Ogawa is described. Specifically, Ogawa indicates the destination address in the pseudo BOM cells are based on the address of the transfer destination gateway. This thus describes destination-based selection. The BOM cell creation in Figure 7 and 8 must be done in a similar manner, as Ogawa does not indicate any different manner. Therefore when Ogawa is considered in detail, irrelevant of the potential meaning of the phrase "source routing," any actual channel selection is done using destination addresses.

The Advisory Action cites col. 1, lines 45-50 for support for the rejection. That passage indicates that the transmission source designates the transfer path. However, the source designating the transfer path is not the same as, and does not teach or suggest, basing the virtual channel selection on the identity of the source as required in amended claim 5. Therefore claim 5 is submitted as being allowable.

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§103 Rejections

Claim 54 was rejected over Ogawa in view of Nishimura. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 54 requires the first small Fibre Channel switch use a first basis to identify the virtual channel and the second small Fibre Channel switch use a second, different basis to identify the virtual channel. The Office Action referenced Ogawa and node 1b using cell 3a and node 1c using cell 3b to identify the virtual channel. Applicants respectfully submit that nodes 1b and 1c both use the same basis, namely analysis of the cell at the top place of the cell stream. See col. 6, lines 43 to col. 7, line 3. Node 1b detects the top cell 3a and uses the destination address to do VPI/VCI transformation. Node 1c detects the top cell 3a but discards it and then uses the new top cell 3b to determine the destination address for VPI/VCI transformation. Thus Applicants submit that both nodes 1b and 1c in Ogawa use the same basis, namely destination address in the top cell present at the VPI/VCI transformation stage.

The Advisory Action appears to clarify the rejection by indicating that the presence of the different destination addresses alone can be considered different bases. In part this position is stated as being based on "basis" in the claim not being clearly stated. Applicants traverse this further point.

Applicants respectfully submit that the wrong point of view is being used to form the rejection. Applicants submit that the claim language itself specifies that the point of view to determine "basis to identify" must be that of the small switch, not some larger view. How does the first switch in Ogawa determine the actual destination address used for routing (VPI/VCI transformation)? It looks at the top cell, cell 3a. How does the second switch in Ogawa determine the destination address? First it discards cell 3a, so that cell 3b is the top cell, then cell 3b, the top cell, is used for VPI/VCI transformation. This is seen in Figure 6 of the Ogawa. Again focusing on the perspective of the switch, the proper perspective based on the claim language, both switches in Ogawa use block 6e to identify the virtual channel. In both switches block 6e only looks at the top cell for its destination address and then selects the VPI/VCI. Thus the basis used to identify the CPI/VCI is the same for each switch.

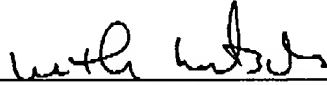
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Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 54 is allowable over Ogawa and Nishimura when the actual operations of Ogawa are fully considered.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 3, 5, 7-11, 13, 18 and 23-57 are allowable.

Respectfully submitted



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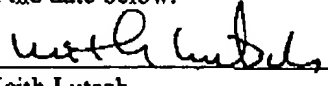
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March 20, 2006

Date



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